In a Signal Tower.

Ten years ago I was employed in a signal block tower on a raffroad. These towers are used to operate the levers controlling the semaphores which direct the engineers of passing trains. They are ruised high above the tracks, and those located out in a sparsely settled country are lonely places. At that time some of the towers were worked by women, and I was one of these women. Indeed, I was a girl of twenty. My duties were not onerous. I had

time for sewing or fancy work or music, the lafter of which I was very fond. I had the night watch, and I and my colleague of the day watch kept our quarters in spick and span condition, with plants in the windows -indeed, everything to make the place

Our tower was some distance from any house, but I was never lonely or afraid, for at the approach of danger I could lock myself in, and with arms and ammunition the place had great advantages for defense. But I never thought of defending myself, for I

One evening shortly before dark I was singing, accompanying myself on my gultar. I did not hear a footstep ascending, and suddenly, looking back of me, I saw a man standing in the room. He was quite respectably dressed, but there was something in his face I did not like. Bowing to me deferentially, he said:

"Pardon me for this intrusion. heard the music and was surprised that it should come from a rellroad watch tower. I am very foul of music, and your voice is dell'fous. Would you mind my sitting here," taking a sent, "while you sing?"

I was not deceived by his smooth tongue, but what could I do? I must meet deception by deception. I uppeared finttered by his approval and continued my singing, though with a trembling voice. The song was "In the Gloaming." It was very appropriate, but I was not thinking of the gloaming. I was thinking how I might outwit some nefarlous scheme I was sure the man had in view. It occurred to me to play Miss Simplicity. As soon as I had finished the song I began to talk about music, how I doted on it and how I felt an immediate liking for any one who loved it. But the man soon turned the subject to my work, asking me all manner of questions with regard to it-the levers, the semaphores and how I threw the trains on to the right track.

I judged from this that he was there rather with some object in view connected with the railroad than myself personally. I made it appear that I was pleased to tell him what he wished to know and talked incessantly in order that I might keep him on that subject, hoping to stave off any intentions he might have with regard to me.

"Now, suppose." he said, "a train should come along. What's the next

"The Bentford express." Well, you wish to put it on the

right track. What do you do?" "I pull this lever." "And if you wished it to take the

right hand track of the Y, a short distance up the track, what would you "I would pull this lever," putting my

band on another. "H'm. It's very interesting. What a simple system when you once know

"Very."

He looked at the clock, rather nervously, I thought, and listened. There was a distant rattle of a train. "Is that the express?" he asked.

"I have no doubt it is." The expression on his face began to change. The interested look he had thus far worn gave place to one of resolution. He walked back and forth, and I saw him put his hand to his hip. I was satisfied that this was to make sure his weapon was in its proper place, though I did not see why he needed it for a girl like me. Perhapa

he was going to shoot the engineer. When the train came within a short distance of the tower I stepped to the levers and put my hand on one of them, My visitor stooped, evidently so as not to be seen from below.

"Not that," he said from behind; "not that one; the other. Throw the train on the right hand track of the Y."

I heard a citck and, looking back, saw the muzzle of a revolver pointing at me. I pulled the lever he ordered me to pull, and the train went thundering by.

Taking a pair of nippers from his pocket, the man cut the wires connecting my telegraph justrument with the main line and, taking a piece of the wire with him, ran out and hurried down the stairs. I locked the door and, staggering to the window, looked out. He was running after the train. He turned and said:

"Goodby, sweetheart. You sing like a nightingule."

As soon as he was out of sight I fell on the floor in a dead faint. Then, coming to myself, I got up and, weak as I was, danced. When he had asked me how to throw the train on to the wrong course I had told him the way

to put it on the right one.

I was called on the wire from an other station and, not replying, a meaeaune of my silence. Since there was no camage done, the missing wire was the only confirmation of my story. It one enough, and I received a liberal poward. My visitor's intention was mever expiring a. It was doubtless inlanded to srreck the train and ron it. SIELOISE AMES.

Satter get busy if You want any on tres of the big Annivareary Number.

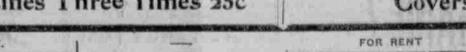


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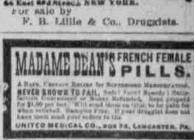
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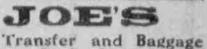
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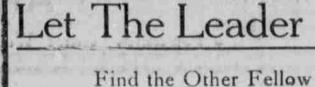


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